

REMARKS

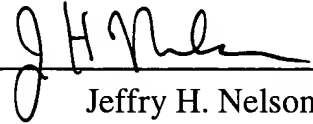
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



Jeffrey H. Nelson
Reg. No. 30,481

JHN:maw

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Amend claims 1 through 16 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of treating pulp, by which method pulp is discharged from a process apparatus [(10)] and fed into a blow or storage tank, [(20)], characterized in that] wherein the method comprises the steps of: feeding the pulp [may be fed into said tank (20) both to the] to an upper part of the tank and [the] to a lower part of [it] the tank depending on [the] a consistency of the pulp being fed from said process apparatus [(10)] in such a manner that pulp at a consistency below a certain predetermined consistency is discharged into said tank [(20)] through the upper part of the tank [(20)] and pulp at a consistency above said predetermined consistency is discharged into said tank [(20)] through the lower part of the tank [(20)].

2. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, [characterized in that the pulp feed is controlled] further comprising controlling the feeding of pulp to the upper part and lower part of the tank by [means of] a consistency detector arranged in a discharge tube [(32, 36)] of said process apparatus.

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein said consistency detector is a blow pump [(34)].

4. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said process apparatus [(10)] is a batch digester.

5. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the feeding of pulp [feed] is controlled according to a pre-determined consistency profile.

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein said predetermined consistency profile [has been determined] varies as a function of time, and whereby said feeding of pulp [feed] is controlled based on time passed from [the] a beginning of an operation of the digester discharge.

7. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the feeding of pulp [fed into the tank (20)] through the upper part of the tank [(20)] is distributed onto [the] a whole cross section of the tank [(20)].

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the feeding of pulp [fed into the tank (20)] through the upper part of the tank [(20)] is distributed on top of [the] pulp [already existing] in the tank [(20)].

9. (Amended) Apparatus for treating pulp comprising:
at least one process apparatus [(10)] and one pump [(34)];
a blow or storage tank; [(20) and a pipeline connecting these, characterized
in that]

said pump [(34)] is connected to said blow or storage tank [(20)] via two feed pipes [(40, 42)];

one [(40)] of said feed pipes [leading] connected to [the top] an upper section of the tank [(20)] and [the other one (42) essentially to the] another of the feed pipes connected to a bottom of the tank [(20)].

10. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein at [the] a pressure side of said blow pump [(34)] there [are] is distribution means [(38) arranged] for distributing the pulp flow to said feed pipes [(40, 42)].

11. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 10, [characterized in that] wherein said distribution means [(38)] is a valve by means of which the flow coming from the pump [(34)] is directed to one of said feed pipes [(40, 42)].

12. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 10, [characterized in that] wherein said distribution means comprises valves positioned in the feed pipes [(40, 42)].

13. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, [characterized in that in] wherein at a connection with the feed pipe [(40)] leading to the tank [(20)] through the upper [part] section of the tank [(20)] there is arranged a device [(44)] distributing the pulp essentially uniformly into the tank [(20)].

14. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein said apparatus is formed of a plurality of batch digesters [(10)] and one or more blow pumps and a blow tank [(20)] into which the digesters [(10)] are discharged.

15. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein said process apparatus is a press, a washer or a dilution device.

16. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein the apparatus further comprises a consistency detector for controlling the operation of the feed pipes [(40, 42)].